

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2022

Statement on Texas's Actions Affecting Transgender Youth

March 2, 2022

In recent days, elected leaders in Texas have launched a cynical and dangerous campaign targeting transgender children and their parents. The Governor of Texas has directed State officials to open child abuse investigations into families simply because they have provided access to affirming care for their children. This is government overreach at its worst. Like so many antitransgender attacks proliferating in States across the country, the Governor's actions callously threaten to harm children and their families just to score political points. These actions are terrifying many families in Texas and beyond. And they must stop.

Today the Department of Health and Human Services has announced several actions to keep transgender children in Texas and their families safe, putting the State of Texas on notice that their discriminatory actions put children's lives at risk. These announcements make clear that rather than weaponizing child protective services against loving families, child welfare agencies should instead expand access to gender-affirming care for transgender children. Respected medical organizations have said that access to gender-affirming care for transgender children can benefit mental health, lower suicide rates, and improve other health outcomes. Children, their parents, and their doctors should have the freedom to make the medical decisions that are best for each young person, without politicians getting the way.

In the United States of America, we respect the rights and dignity of all families. Transgender children bring fulfillment to their parents, joy to their friends, and are made in the image of God. Affirming a transgender child's identity is one of the best things a parent, teacher, or doctor can do to help keep children from harm, and parents who love and affirm their children should be applauded and supported, not threatened, investigated, or stigmatized. As I told transgender Americans in my State of the Union Address yesterday evening, "I'll always have your back as your President so you can be yourself and reach your God-given potential." Jill and I are standing with the incredibly brave transgender children, their parents, and families throughout Texas and around the country, and we will continue to fight for a future where all children can thrive.

NOTE: The statement referred to Gov. Gregory W. Abbott of Texas.

Categories: Statements by the President : Texas actions affecting transgender youth.

Names: Abbott, Gregory W.; Biden, Jill T.

Subjects: Civil rights : Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, equality; Health and medical care : Mental health programs and services; Presidency, U.S. : State of the Union Address; Texas : Governor; Texas : State actions affecting transgender youth.

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